

LEGISLATIVE

#110589

EMPLOYEE BUS PASS PROGRAM - FINAL REPORT

**Reference: F. P. No.: 40852418401, Contract # AI 258
June 1, 2000 – December 31, 2011**

Purpose

This report provides details on the performance of the City of Gainesville's Regional Transit System (RTS) Employee Bus Pass Program, which offers employees of participating local organizations unlimited prepaid access to all fixed route bus services. Participating local organizations include the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, University of Florida, Shands Hospital, North Florida and South Georgia Veterans Health System, hereafter referred to as the Veterans Administration, and the Alachua/Bradford Regional Workforce Board.

Overview

The Employee Pass Program was created to encourage employees to use transit as an alternative to automobiles and thereby alleviate traffic congestion and parking problems at the University of Florida and in downtown Gainesville. University of Florida employees were the first group to participate in the Employee Bus Pass Program, which has been in effect since January 24, 2000. The City of Gainesville's participation began on April 3, 2000 followed by Alachua County on July 24, 2000 and the Alachua/Bradford Regional Workforce Board on September 11, 2000. The Veterans Administration joined the program in May 2, 2005 and Shands Hospital joined in February 1, 2006.

The University of Florida (UF) Employee Bus Pass Program was expanded on October 1, 2007 to include 1,649 spouses and partners of UF students, faculty and staff unlimited prepaid use of the RTS regular fixed routes, UF campus routes, and Later Gator route service. The UF program was expanded again in 2011 to include UF retirees.

In 2011 RTS added three new employee pass program participants: Santa Fe College (SFC); the Oaks Mall and Job Corps. The Job Corps began its program in February 2011 by purchasing access for 100 participants. SFC began its program in July 2011 to provide unlimited transit access to 1,020 Faculty and Staff members. Oaks Mall began its program in August 2011 for 350 participants.

Performance Analysis

Over 2.6 million passenger trips completed since the Employee Pass Program began in 2000. Since January 2000, employees at the University of Florida have used the transit system for over 1.4 million passenger trips. Since April 2000 through December 2010, 461,098 passenger trips were completed by employees of the City, County, or Veterans Administration. Since the beginning of the program employee participation at the University of Florida has increased from 2,151 trips in January 2000 to a high of 23,690 monthly trips in April 2010. Program participation by City of Gainesville, Alachua County, and Veterans Administration employees has increased from 854 trips in August 2000 to as high as 7,145 trips in September 2010. Together the Shands Hospital and

Alachua/Bradford Regional Workforce Board programs transported 151,251 passengers in 2011 through November with a monthly passenger trip average of 13,750 in 2011. Table 1 provides monthly passenger trip counts by employer program.

Table 1: Passengers per Month

Month	University of Florida Passengers	City/County Passengers
January (24-31) 2000	2,151	N/A
February 2000	5,553	N/A
March 2000	6,123	N/A
April 2000	5,305	488
May 2000	5,060	432
June 2000	4,863	572
July 2000	4,954	712
August 2000	6,396	854
September 2000	6,999	800
October 2000	7,597	1,079
November 2000	7,229	1,077
December 2000	5,611	1,034
Total 2000	67,841	7,048
January 2001	7,258	1,158
February 2001	7,822	1,174
March 2001	7,939	1,361
April 2001	7,811	1,482
May 2001	6,339	1,440
June 2001	5,618	1,432
July 2001	6,122	1,570
August 2001	7,371	1,919
September 2001	7,616	1,582
October 2001	9,880	1,847
November 2001	8,641	2,318
December 2001	6,580	1,367
Total 2001	88,997	18,650
January 2002	7,514	1,268
February 2002	7,396	1,280
March 2002	8,361	1,460
April 2002	9,647	1,655
May 2002	6,918	1,288
June 2002	6,208	1,273
July 2002	7,398	1,108
August 2002	8,300	1,303
September 2002	8,557	1,076
October 2002	10,770	1,296
November 2002	8,588	992
December 2002	7,811	1,025
Total 2002	97,468	15,024

Month	University of Florida Passengers	City, County, and Veterans Administration Passengers	Workforce Board / Shands Hospital (Shands began February 1, 2006)
January 2003	8,526	1,056	270
February 2003	8,809	821	703
March 2003	8,852	893	121
April 2003	9,615	1,106	597
May 2003	7,955	969	526
June 2003	8,990	875	1,367
July 2003	10,145	1,094	2,496
August 2003	9,201	1,006	4,105
September 2003	12,233	1,230	3,506
October 2003	12,942	1,111	4,556
November 2003	8,984	973	3,460
December 2003	8,353	1,075	4,183
Total 2003	114,605	12,209	25,664
January 2004	8,864	935	3,510
February 2004	9,799	977	3,741
March 2004	10,910	1,125	4,565
April 2004	11,093	1,506	3,235
May 2004	7,902	828	398
June 2004	8,764	871	1,201
July 2004	8,547	921	2,739
August 2004	9,904	1,101	3,749
September 2004	11,455	1,128	3,553
October 2004	12,170	1,157	4,286
November 2004	10,927	1,118	3,959
December 2004	8,061	988	3,885
Total 2004	118,396	12,655	38,821
January 2005	10,118	1,061	3,158
February 2005	9,380	893	3,194
March 2005	11,142	1,115	3,352
April 2005	11,108	985	2,925
May 2005	7,283	1,442	4,027
June 2005	7,542	1,621	2,285
July 2005	7,672	1,598	2,216
August 2005	9,369	1,972	2,852
September 2005	9,941	2,391	2,511
October 2005	10,312	2,504	2,878
November 2005	9,699	2,558	2,510
December 2005	7,797	2,281	3,190
Total 2005	111,363	20,421	35,098

Month	University of Florida Passengers	City, County, and Veterans Administration Passengers	Workforce Board / Shands Hospital (Shands began February 1, 2006)
January 2006	8,796	2,740	3,224
February 2006	9,673	3,068	4,707
March 2006	12,007	3,618	5,958
April 2006	9,981	3,047	4,993
May 2006	9,325	3,361	5,830
June 2006	9,344	3,104	2,665
July 2006	8,543	3,180	3,200
August 2006	10,860	4,343	4,436
September 2006	11,342	4,248	4,621
October 2006	12,932	4,290	5,197
November 2006	11,375	3,738	4,264
December 2006	8,342	3,567	6,535
Total 2006	122,520	42,304	55,630
January 2007	10,463	3,785	5,127
February 2007	10,784	4,131	3,822
March 2007	11,057	4,751	3,896
April 2007	11,051	4,429	3,768
May 2007	9,456	4,527	4,101
June 2007	9,650	4,620	3,174
July 2007	10,646	4,632	3,355
August 2007	12,606	5,405	4,010
September 2007	12,461	4,581	3,390
October 2007^ (UF Change)	14,560	5,529	4,406
November 2007	12,559	4,086	4,255
December 2007	9,848	4,392	5,015
Total 2007	135,141	54,868	48,319

Month	University of Florida Passengers	City, County, and Veterans Administration Passengers	Workforce Board / Shands Hospital (Shands began February 1, 2006)
January 2008	14,485	4,447	7,624
February 2008	13,731	3,962	6,817
March 2008	12,507	4,450	6,862
April 2008	14,281	4,629	6,068
May 2008	11,506	4,273	5,740
June 2008	11,749	4,627	4,614
July 2008	14,160	5,481	3,715
August 2008	10,617	5,977	4,260
September 2008	12,342	6,529	6,093
October 2008	13,725	6,852	8,434
November 2008	10,673	5,439	5,202
December 2008	10,033	5,734	6,245
Total 2008	149,809	62,400	71,674
January 2009	10,801	5,060	6,520
February 2009	11,421	5,285	6,831
March 2009	12,274	5,830	7,656
April 2009	11,997	5,970	9,398
May 2009	8,719	5,697	9,120
June 2009	9,948	6,231	7,975
July 2009	11,369	6,068	6,484
August 2009	11,167	5,612	10,466
September 2009	14,661	6,370	12,029
October 2009	15,126	6,590	16,473
November 2009	12,609	5,681	17,166
December 2009	11,189	5,972	20,344
Total 2009	141,281	70,366	130,462

Month	University of Florida Passengers	City, County, and Veterans Administration Passengers	Workforce Board / Shands Hospital (Shands began February 1, 2006)
January 2010	10,946	6,296	21,715
February 2010	11,978	6,072	21,412
March 2010	13,013	7,048	23,224
April 2010	13,141	6,862	23,690
May 2010	10,579	5,862	21,933
June 2010	10,965	6,398	16,727
July 2010	12,500	6,423	8,975
August 2010	11,145	6,325	10,510
September 2010	11,679	7,145	12,810
October 2010	11,552	6,653	13,133
November 2010	11,128	5,802	12,918
December 2010	8,932	5,264	12,885
Total 2010	137,558	76,150	199,899
Month	University of Florida Passengers	City/GRU, County, Veterans Administration, SFC, Oaks Mall, and Job Corps Passengers	Workforce Board / Shands Hospital Passengers
January 2011	11,229	5,471	15,237
February 2011	10,976	5,288	13,249
March 2011	11,786	5,921	14,977
April 2011	11,142	6,149	15,050
May 2011	10,347	4,810	14,111
June 2011	10,479	4,664	13,372
July 2011	9,526	4,849	10,411
August 2011	11,110	7,049	12,965
September 2011	11,149	6,674	13,951
October 2011	11,293	7,091	14,420
November 2011	11,002	6,322	13,508
<i>*December 2011</i>	<i>10,051</i>	<i>5,657</i>	<i>13,158</i>
*Total 2011 (Est.)	130,090	69,945	164,409
Program Totals (2000 – 2011)	1,415,069	462,040	769,976

Note:

^ Effective October 1, 2007, the University of Florida agreed to fund prepaid unlimited access for 1,649 spouses and partners of students, faculty and staff.

*December 2011 estimated using the average of past three year's actual counts.

Cost Analysis

Table 2 shows the cost for the eleventh consecutive year of the program. The cost of this service is based on \$6.75 per employee for 32,002 employees totaling \$216,013.50 for calendar year 2011.

Table 2: Total Cost – Eleventh Year (2011)

Employee Group	Number of Employees	Cost/Employee	Total Cost
University of Florida	12,570	\$6.75	\$84,847.50
University of Florida (spouses and partners)	1,649	\$6.75	\$11,130.75
University of Florida (retirees)	2,282	\$6.75	\$15,403.50
Shands Hospital	8,265	\$6.75	\$55,788.75
Veterans Administration	2,630	\$6.75	\$17,752.50
City of Gainesville	1,324	\$6.75	\$ 8,937.00
Workforce Board	750	\$6.75	\$ 5,062.50
Alachua County	200	\$6.75	\$ 1,350.00
GRU	862	\$6.75	\$ 5,818.50
Santa Fe (Faculty & Staff)	1,020	\$6.75	\$6,885.00
Oaks Mall	350	\$6.75	\$1,350.00
Job Corps	100	\$6.75	\$675.00
Total	32,002	\$6.75	\$216,013.50

Note: The Employee Pass Program cost per employee increased in January 2009 from \$4.50 to \$6.75 per employee. This fifty percent rate increase is due to cash fare and passes rate increases implemented in October 2008.

The projected cost per trip in calendar year in 2011, for all employees, is \$0.59. For UF employees, including spouses or partners and retirees, the cost per trip was \$0.86, for City of Gainesville/GRU, Alachua County, Veterans Administration, SFC, Oaks Mall and Job Corps employees the cost per trip was \$0.63 and \$0.37 for employees of Shands Hospital and the Alachua/Bradford Regional Workforce Board.

In summary, the goal of this program is to provide all program participants with unlimited access to the transit system and diminish the cost per trip compared to the regular bus fare of \$1.50. Overall, this goal continues to be met annually.